

The Tree of Knowledge

The old mail route between Plymouth and Boston lay through Tarkiln (where there was a kiln used for making tar), a little village in the western part of Duxbury. At the four corners stood a sturdy oak on which was nailed a box into which the stagecoach driver placed all the mail for this section. Here it was collected by the townspeople and the letters and parcels to be taken to Boston on the next day, took its place. Thus the tree was known as "The Tree of Knowledge". Its site is now marked by a guide-board. Ralph Eastman, vice-president of the State Street Trust, has generously offered to replace the broken glass protecting the painted tree and stagecoach on the guide-board.

And have you ever heard of "The Tea Party Tree?" Here's a paragraph about it which came from the same pamphlet, DUXBURY DAY, published in 1909:

"Near the Lily Pond (where is THAT?) among the many forest trees was one finer and larger than all the rest, and which stood somewhat apart. This was known as The Tea Party Tree. Under its shade the baskets were carried, the cloth spread, and the lunch eaten with social converse. Many years ago the ruthless woodman's ax felled this noble oak and its beauty and shade live only in the memory of the elders of this generation. (From the "Duxbury Budget)."